## CHRISTMAS.

A DAY OF GLADNESS AND FESTIVITY

Joyous Observance of the Anniversary in the Metropolis.

A CLOUDLESS SKY AND A HAPPY CITY

Interesting Religious, Charitable and Secular Exercises.

Thronged Streets, Smiling Faces and Crowded Churches.

Banta Claus Among the Boldiers and the Children.

Turkey and Other Good Things for Everybody.

THE DAY IN THE PARK.

Balls; Social Entertainments and German Pestivities of the Evening.

ed the arder of some of the citizens of New York who d made their arrangements for an extensive celebra-

The public ceremonies of yesterday are given at length

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL The Festival of the Nativity of Christ, as Christmas Thy is termed in the calendar of the Catholic Church, was celebrated with great pomp and solemnity at St.

The tok's cathedral. The masses, which commenced at two o'clock in the morning, were concluded with a pontical high mass, in which the Most Reverend Arch-Deginning, which raried but slightly from the usual sime, was half-past ten A. M., but long in advance of that hour the vast edifice was throughd with the congre-

Promptly at the hour which had been announced in he earlier services and on the preceding Sunday, the approcession emerged from the sacristy in most imposing away, and, preceded by the bearers of the golden cruci-fix and lighted condles, passed by the side alter and enovergreens and flowers and sparkled under the blaze of the lights which occupied every niche and recess of the ry. The vestments of the clergy were of unusual richness, in conformity with the joy and glory of the or all were scarlet hate and sutacs. The mass which was immediately celebrated by the Most Reverend Archbishop, occupied a period of two

which was immediately celebrated by the Most Reverend Archbishop, occupied a period of two hours, and was replete with all the measured solemnity and impressive coremonies peculiar to its service. Father Menierney, who has long since won the little of the Chesterfield of religious coremony and etimette, was master of ceremonies. The other officers of the mass were as follows:—Very Rev. Father Starrs, V. G. mediatant priest; Rev. Father Magnire and Dr. McSwe-my, deacons at the shrine; Rav. Father McGeon, deacon at the altar; Rev. Mr. Hudson, sub-deacon at the altar.

This Sermon.

Father McNierney pronounced the sermon, taking for his test the story of the incarnation, as embraced in the first fourteen verses of the second chapter of St. Luke—"And it came to pass that in those days there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus that all should be enrolled. Re. Among the many mysteries, and the reversand speaker, which the Church commenciated, there was tone more beautiful, more consoling, than that of the nativity of Christ. The spectacle of his lowly brith was such as to confound our reason and fill the heart with deep and everflowing emotion. To fathom and understand such a mystery were not possible to us. To admire and examine and study it would be an abundant source of gratification The prophet had prophesied that femalem was to be ennobled by the birth of Christ, and the prediction had been verified in the stable of Bettheham, where the greatest of God's works had been accomplished. It might have been a matter of superise to some, said of scandal to others, that the great Lord should not have a spot whereon to lay his head upon his entrance into the world. But this very humility He chose to be born in. It was a proof of the excess of the love which the bore man in entering the world in want, and poverty and suffering. It was not only to expense to be born in a stable and laid in a manger, and the more a verified to nother that the application and makind in those thoughts. But the chose to be born in a stable o

an excellent choir.

THE PAPAL BENEDICTION.

At the close of the mass the Archbishop dispense Papal blessing, in accordance with the privilege gree by his Holiness the Pope.

At the New Jerusalem church in Thirty-fifth street the services were of a very interesting and pleasing

our ways, and gives us every good we will receive from Him. But when we have sunk so deeply in sin that neuter poverty nor abundance, prosperity nor adversity, freedom nor ocundace, can suffice to save us from sin, He-comes himself. He clother Hig Davine with a human nature that He may reach its with the strong arm of natural truth. The coming of the Lord into the world as the Saviour of men is the great event in human history. It was the pillar upon which the dark and learful past and the eternal future turned. As the Lord came down from heaven and was born into this world, so He must, come down from the higher regions of man's mind, where He dwells with every one, and be born upon the earth. He must become established in the natural man. When this event takes place, the greatest in our whole history, the whole current of life begins to change. The course of the soul is to be onward and upward. The language of the angel is appropriate to all who are in this state. But it is remarkable that the early years of the Saviour were passed in obscurity. It was a period of growth—of preparation. There is an analogous work in every man's life. Our new principles of spiritual life may work for a long time within with very little outward manifestation. Slowness of growth is necessary, that our aprintual file may gain sufficient strongth to resist the temptations which it will surely austain. As soon as the Divine truths become established, and begin to assert their power, they awaken the hostility of the natural man, and then the conflict begins. It will not be fluished until we have weested in Getharmane, and have been nalled to the cross on Calvary. When the saviour comes upon the earth of our minds He finds all its principles corrupt; every faculty is misdirected and pervented; the understanding is blind to truth; the ear is deaf to the Divine commands; the feet lame to run on the Divine errands. The work which He finds before Him is one that only omnipotent power can accomplish. He must open the blind eyes to see the

solo by Proch, were the principal selections, and were artistically rendered by the choir of the church, with a chorus and foll orchestra under the leadership of Hera Appy. The whole performance, with the exception of a little unsteadness occasionally, was a complete success and reflects great credit upon Mr. Gleason, the organism

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

In addition to the regular musical services at this In addition to the regular musical services at this church yesterday, the Te Deam, by Thomas, in B flat, the Jubilate, by Paddon, and Mozart's grand chorus "Glory be to God on High," were sung with a great deal of expression, the solos being given by Misses Bristow and Clark and Mr. G. Dye. Mr. J. P. Jardine presided at the organ. The pastor, Rev. S. J. Cornoitie, delivered a fine sermon on the coming of the Saviour and Mediator, at the conclusion of which a collection for the benefit of the poor was taken up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY. The children connected with the John street Methodist Episcopal church, to the number of about one hundred and fifty, were last evening regaled with a sumption and any, were last evening regated with a simplicity of the teachers and members of the church. Appropriate addresses were delivered by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Pliney, and by the Rev. Mr. Hildreth, after which refreshments were served out.

DINNERS AND OTHER FESTIVITIES.

DINNER AT THE NEW YORK STATE SOL-

The brave soldiers of the Empire State who are no topping at the Soldiers' Depot, in Howard street, awaiting the settlement of various claims against government prior to receiving their fluxl discharge and return ing to their homes throughout the State, were to a great extent reconciled to their lot in not being of the number of those who gathered around the social family board 'at home" yesterday, by the munificence of the benevostitution, in providing the gallant follows with a sump tuons and elegant dinner, as was also the case, it will be remembered, on last Thankagiving Day. None of the benevotent institutions—and New York can certainly boast of many—who gave Christmas dianors yesterday soldiers' banquet given by these good ladies, whose an preciation of the past services of our soldiers has been entrance to the Soldiers' Depot was decked with ever-greens, while the dising hall was very tastefully arranged. the halls were gracefully festooned with borders of pine and cedar, at proper intervals surrounded by green names of distinguished military heroes of the re-bellion —Thomas, Meade, Hooker, Sherman, Grant (the name of the Lieutenant General was surmounted by an cagle) and Kilpatrick. Upon the other side the naval heroes were enumerated, as Foote, Farragut and Porter, while a banner directly opposite the centre of the tables here the inscription in large characters —

GOD BLESS THE LADIES

The credit of the decognion of the hall belongs to Mr.

J. I. Provost and the employees of the institution. Shortly after twelve o clock, dinner having been reported ready, the soldier, numbering about three hundred men, among whom were forty or afty colored veterans, marched in in regular order to the banquet hall, and, opening to the right and left, filed upon either side of the tables and look their seats after the most approved order of discipline, a band which was in attendance discoursing excellent music. It required but a hasty survey of the tables to satisfy the veterans that they would soon become masters of the situation, and that the breastworks before them, though formidable as they were numerous, world soon be carried at the point of the fork; as they all felt that with good appointes and perseverance their annihilation could be encompassed. The tables may be truly raid to have groaned beneath the weight of the Christmas dinner. There were no less than seven hundred pounds of turkey alone, while geen, roast beef and other fowl and flesh, wish the thousand accompaniments and condiments of every description, were set out in graceful profusion before the boys; not to speak of mince and other pies, together with pyramids of roey apples, nute and each other pies, together with pyramids of roey apples, nute and condiments of every description, were set out in graceful profusion before the boys; not to speak of mince and other pies, together with pyramids of roey apples, nute and condiments of every description, were set out in graceful profusion before the boys; not to speak of mince and other pies, together with pyramids of roey apples, nute and each condiments of every description, were set out in graceful profusion before the boys; not to speak of mince and other pies, together with pyramids of roey apples, nute and each condiments of every description, were set out in graceful profusion before the boys; not to speak of mince and other pies, together with pyramids of roey apples.

NEWSBOYS' LODGING HOUSE.

from one mysterious being-"Allvater" (the Father of Persian, and "Uranus" in ancient Greece. The highest of the gods of the ancient Germans was Woden (Wuotan, Odin, &c.), and his goddess was named Freia (Fro. Frigga, &c.). In honor of these gods they celebrated, during twelve days and nights, the heather Tuictes, which is an occasion of great joy for the worshippers of

birthday of Christ, was first celebrated in the fourth century, and the heathen Yulefest was transformed into the Christian Christians. Woden was submitted for

which are in vogue on Christmas at the present day are of heathen origin.

The Orana Christmas for the calculation of Christmas ove, which is generally observed with great oclet in every household by the litumination of the Christmas tree and the distribution of holiday gills; and this portion of the celebration is slways an occasion of great happiness, and serves as a reunion of the friends and relatives of tarilles. But Christmas eve was spoiled in consequence of the inclemency of the weather on Sunday, and the preparations in many instances had been in vain. The musical reunions had to be dispensed with, inasmuch as the eve fell on Sunday. Yet in many a household the festival was celebrated as best it could be under the circumstances and in a private and quiet manner. The public places of amusement were, of course, not frequented. Yesterday the weather was favorable, and the day was therefore observed among the Germans in this city as a general holiday and in a becoming manner. In St. Matthew's German Lutheran church in Walker street, and in all other German churches the usual Christmas services were held; and although the Gormans in this city are, or the majority of them, not much of a church-going people, all these places were well attended, as is usually the case on Christmas and other principal holidays. None the less were all public places of amusement frequented—aspecially the theatre, where two performances were given during the day.

At the Atlanta Gardon a grand concert was given in the afternoon by an orchestra of some twenty mesicians, and quite a rich programme was presented. In the evening a series of balls and sociables had been arranged.

THE ARIONS.

The Arion You!

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THE ARIONS.

The Arion Vocal Society, a prominent musical association, which comprises many members of acknowledged vocal and musical talent, had a Christmas celebration arranged last night at the Germania Assembly Rooma, which like all the testivities arranged by the Arion, was quite a conspictors affair. Though its members do not neglect the chitivation of music and song this society is more a humoristic organization than anything else, and the celebration last night bore as usual a buriesque character. In the first place a distribution of holiday gifts took place, which were drawn by lot. The gifts were contributed by the members of the society, about three hundred and "My in number. Bendes these a number of valuable gifts had been contributed by private persons, which were distributed, and a presentation to the leader of the chorus, Mr. Hartmann, took piace, After the distribution of these prizes or gifts, a banquet took place, where a full orchestra was in attendance, discounding at intervals favorite national airs. The banquet hall was decorated with droil and buriesque figures, and with a variety of dags and banners. In the veer of the baliroom, where the gift or prize distribution took place, stood a huge Christmas free, which was lighted when the distribution began. Some four hundred persons, ladies and gontlemen, were present at the banquet, which had been arranged under the direction of Mears. Flags, Rucckelt and Hundt. During the evening a buriesque performance took place, hunoristic addresses were delivered by several members and a new humoristic song was sung. The Arion Christmas, on the whole, wazquite a droil affair.

The manners of the Liesterkram Society assembled at

A SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

The Sunday school of the Social and Moral Educational Society (Sociale and aithtiche Bildsings-Gesellschaft) assembled last night at the Social Reform Hall, in Grand airest, where the pupils were properly entertained by a distribution of Christmas gifts. The Director of the school, Professor Fuster, delivered an address appropriate to the occasion. The school numbers about one hundred pupils, and is a very deserving instantion. The festivities were wound up by a ball.

WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE DID ON CHRISTMAS EVE-There is a vast deal of romance about childhood; in-

is gladsome innocence. There is nothing of trouble or care to bantsh the smile or plough furrows in the brow.

Things are but as they seem, and all is brightly tinted

but too often does the hand of Old Time prematurely

future, only to disclose life as it is, with all its hard and stern realities. In childhood's days fairies laughingly

flit along life's pathway, strewing it with flowers, and merry elves peep out en us and smile. It

innocents, and believe everything. The most astonishing stories are related to them, and the stranger

occurrences recorded. What child would dare to doubt

a bean-stalk into fairy land, and thus immortalized him-self? Or who among them ever questioned the provess

combats with the "Fee faw fums?" Not one of them

of another Jack, surnamed the "Giant Killer,

New Amsterdam, claimed him as the City's Patron Saint; so he has good reason for being beneficent to us.

MIS PREACE ON CHERETMAS EVE.

In many a household over the world Santa Claus has proved himself a cause of much haviness, and nowhere more so than on our own continent, and nower was that generous Saint so larish of his gifts as on last Christmas Eve. In perfect confisione the merry children hung up their stockings, with gaping mouths ready to devour up the Saint's gifts when he came. In pleasurable anticipation they slept the sleep of innocease, and dreamed that he had fooked on them and smiled, filling the tiny stockings to the top with his choicest gifts. And then they awake and eagerly hasien to see if their dreams be verified, and, surely enough, stockings overflow with presents. A heliby horse, tinable to trot into the narrow opening, stands upon the floor. A box of spiciace ills the apperpart, a doll the lower, and in the toe is a large packet of the choicest candies. Oh, how Santa Claus is blessed and praised! How happy he ought to feel in giving so much pleasure to others. Who would done to undecree them, if, indeed, there be any deceit in the matter? What father or mother would have the bardihood to present himself or herself as the verticable doner of those gifts—the genuine Santa Claus. To do se we fill be an outrage upon a time honored character. Let the Saint have all the credit. Mystery delights childbood, and to unseat so popular a personage in the affections of they oung folks would be a blow to their feelings not to be recovered from. Though they have outgrown the days of better in sach childish matters, yet the place of the Saint Alaxe of days gone by is filled by the father, the brother or the lover, and if the last what joy does it bring to the blushing maiden! As a nation, the Saint on the presedue Christmas presented us with Savannan; this year he gives us a restored Union, an unstained flag, an unviolated constitution. All these has he given us, and we rejoice over the gifts and say

tributed his stock in trade to all. The children roared with delight, and indeed the eider persons present became children again at the sight of their old friend. His store of presents seemed exhausticss, but hundreds pressed around, and fairly trade out, Santa Claus vanished. Not in a "red blaze" of blue lightning" did he disappear, but the way he entered—through the door. Some persons were so bad as to say he was not a saint, nor even a fairly, but a certain Mr. Warner, a member of the club. The idea was properly scouted. The young folks knaw better than that. Then followed supper, and then again commenced the dance; and again young and old tripped it till fair Aurora looked in upon the happy party and put them to flight.

The entire affair was excellently managed under the direction of Mesers. Stout, Starin, Cary, Finch, Sloat, Jones, &c.

Santa Claus will come no more till Christmas Eve of 1806; then doubtless he will again visit our homes and families, apreading good humor and happiness as he proceeds, and leaving pleasurable remembrances behind him.

THE DAY IN BROOKLYN.

Christmas Day was observed in Brooklyn with all due respect, and seemed perfectly enjoyable to all. The weather was all that could be desired. The ferry boats and cars were crowded throughout the day, carrying well patronized; the youngsters blew their fish horns vociferously and discordantly; the Episcopal and Catholic bath schools had interesting festivals, and the day may be said to have passed off quietly and harmoniously.

The seventeenth missionary festival of the Sands Street M. E. Church Suodsy school took place yesterday commenced at a quarter to eleven o'clock A. M., at which time the church was crowded to its utmost capacity. The body of the church was occupied by the childre and the galleries assigned to adults. The church was appropriately decorated. Behind the pulpit was ornarustic flower stand, filled with natural flowers,

Among the distinguished personages present Mr. Fletcher, the pastor of the church, and Hon. Moses F. Odell, the Superintendent of the school. The classes were each represented by varicolored bainers, having their names on them, among which were "The senbeam," "Ministering Children," "Stars of the Luion," "Wayside Flowers, "Spring Biossoms, "Olive Plants," "Golden Sheaf," "Busy Bees," "Hope," "Rose Buds," "Casket of Jewels," "Little Branches," "Little Fligrims," "Mustard Seeds," "Gleaners," "Field Flowers," "Rays of Light," "Lillies of the Valley," "Lambs of the Flock," &c. Mr. S. U. F. Odell, Assistant Superintendent, directed the exercises, in consequence of the late illness of his brother, the Superintendent. The exercises commenced by singing the hymn— Mr. Fletcher, the pastor of the church, and Hon. Moses

Praise the Lord, once neek and lowly, Grieved, afflicted and betrayed; Illim, the high, the pure, the holy, In the world His bands had made.

Bishop Janes then made a beautiful and appropriate prayer. This was followed by a hymn by the infant class, commencing:

We are coming, blessed Saviour.

combats with the "Fee-faw furms!" Not one of them; the offence would be unpardonable, even in a child. Cinderella and her adventures are "facts" in the nursery, and all children believe her fairy god-mother did actually transform the pumpkin, mice and rats into the gorgeous coach and four, with its coachman and powdered footman. The fearful tragedy of "Red Riding Hood" is listened to with attention; and should any child of ancient or modern times even insimuste concerning the probable accuracy of every particular the attempt would be hooked upon as a case of invenile delinquency of the most hardened description. So is it a wondrous period, the locked upon as a case of invenile delinquency of the locked upon as a case of invenile delinquency of the most hardened description. So is it a wondrous period, the locked upon as a case of invenile delinquency of the locked upon as a case of invenile delinquency of the most hardened description. So is it a wondrous period, the locked upon as a case of invenile delinquency of the locked upon as a case of invenile delinquency of the most hardened description. So is it a wondrous period, the large of the imagination, untrammelled by the lossens learned in the world, assimpted by convenitoral laws or logical stumbling blocks, roves (sany free of mend and dell, where countless elin forms disport themselves round and deal, where countless elin forms disport themselves round and deal, where countless elin forms disport the mend and dell, where countless elin forms disport to the state, where Rev. Mr. Picher a discount to present to the state, where Rev. Mr. Picher a discount to present to the state, where Rev. Mr. Picher a discount to present to the state, where Rev. Mr. Picher a discount to present to the proportion of your services to your country, as an example of their good while, as the proportion of your services to your country, as an example of their good while, as the proportion of your services to your country, as an example of the manual proportion of the manual prop

six o'clock in the morning a solemn high mass was celebrated, and at hat'past ten a grand mass. On each occasion the Rev. Dr. Malone officiated, assisted by a deacon and sub-deacon. After the celebration of the latter mass Dr. Malone ascended the pulpit and delivered a sermon of surpassing eloquant and power, taking as his text, "Fear not: for behola i bring, you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people; for this day in born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David." The mass (which was Iambelott's Pastoral) was sung by a double choir. The chorch decorations were superb. The grand altar was festooned with natural and artificial flowers, and was hit up with about three hundred candles. The orb of Beth'shem was placed in the Sunday school room and visited by thousands. During the day it is estimated that five thousands persons, Protestant as well as Catholic, visited this church, and the discourse of Dr. Malone, which principally related to the progress of Christianity in the United States, will not soon be forgotten by those who heard it.

The Church of the Holy Trinity (German) in Montroes avenue, was densely crowded from break of day until late in the affernoon, and thousands thronged the avenue who were unable to gain admission. The Rav. Dr. Mal officiated at two services. This church is probably the largest in the district, but could not accommodate half those who sought admission to it.

At St. Fanl's Episcopal (free) church, corner of Marcy avenue and Pean street, services were held as prescribed for the day. On Wednesday evening next the Sunday School connected with the church will hold a Christiana crowded throughout the atternoon and ovening with vetarres of the drams. This bidding, which has been used for some time past as a German theatre, is capable of centing one thousand persons, and the seats were all occupied throughout the afternoon. In the sevening Dr. Feet der Handwerker (the feast of the workingmen) and Der Lebestrack (the love drink) were played before

JERSEY CITY. MIDNIGHT MASS AND SERVICES AT ST. PRTER'S
CHURCH.

Long before the midnight hour, which eighteen hundred years ago ushered in the birth of the babe of Beth-

lehem, the old Church of St. Peter, on Grand street, Jersey City, was thronged to excess. The immediate vicinity of the church was also crowded with persons who had been enable to gain admission. The vocal part of the ceremonics was of the most attractive order, comprising Mozart's Twelfth Mass and anthems appropriate for the day. The massive barmony of the former was executed in a highly creditable manner. The following well known ortists, comprised the choir:—Mrs. Sparks, organist; Mesdemossilles Rolten, O'Rien, Trieur and English, coprani; Mesdemossilles Uppington and Weir, alit; Mr. Johnston, tenore, Mr. Alvino and other gentlemen sustaining the bass. A most eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Brann, relating to the festival. At the solemn high mass Rev. Mr. Richert, S. J., as sub-deacon. Every means that could add to the splender of this midnight celebration were adopted by the Rev. J. Kelly the aged paster of this time theorem church. At the fair in his schoolhouse, which was lately opened for the benefit of the new church, hundreds of the congregation awaited the hour of the cheerston in the church. sey City, was thronged to excess. The immediate vicin-

MONTHEAL, Dec. 25, 1865.
The 'Merchants' Exchange, a large four story stone building, opposite the Montreal Telegraph Company's office, took fire last night about ten o'clock, and, in spite of several streams of water, burnt figreely until two o'clock this morning, The building was completely gutted. The telegraph office was in considerable danger at one time. There was fortunately not much wind. The Chief of the Fire Brigade was hurt and two firemen

> Terrible Case of Suffocation. CHICAGO, Dec. 25, 1866.

Bremen Hotel, 137 Lake street, Saturday night, resulting in the death of five men, and perhaps six. The victime retiring, the cap of the gas pipe, which was merely stuck on with wax, fell off, allowing the gas, under fall pressure, to enter the room. Five of the men were found dad yesterday morning. Another was still alive last